THE FORTUNE HUNTER

Novelized by LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE From the Play of the Same Name by WINCHELL SMITH

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(MANNAMAN MANNAMAN MA Continued from Page 15.) "You see, sir, it's this way. I want you to intrust me with a considerable sum of money, and naturally you would not do that without knowing something about me."

"I incline very much to doubt that I should do it in any event, Mr. Dun-

"Oh, don't say that. You don't know the circumstances as yet." Nat jerked his head earnestly at the colonel. "You see, you're said to be one of the richest men in town, and I'm certainly one of the poorest, so of course I turn to you in a case like this."

Duncan could have sworn that the eyes were twinkling beneath the savagely knitted brows.

"You must understand I'm in business here in Radville-a partner in a growing and prospering concern-ahdoing-very well in point of fact."

"But we haven't any spare capital. In fact, we haven't got any capital worth mentioning. But the business is entirely sound and solvent." "I congratulate you, sir."

"Thank you very much. Now, I'm interested in a rather singular case. that of a young woman-s girl, I should say-daughter of my partner. She's a good girl and wonderfully sweet and tine, sir. She comes of one of the best families in these parts." "On her mother's side," suggested

the colonel dryly. neglected. Circumstances have been against her. She hasn't had a real chance in life, but she ought to have one way or another.'

"You haven't finished?" said the

sign," he told himself. "He hasn't ordered me thrown out yet." "To come down to cases, sir, she school for a few years. It'll make a new woman of her-a woman to be

proud of. She's got that in her. It only needs to be brought out." "And before you leave, sir," said the colonel with significant precision, "will you think this should interest me?"

"No." said Duncan candidly; "I haven't got the nerve to. But what I wanted to propose was this-that you lend me \$500 to cover the expense of gown for state occasions. the first year on condition that I represent the money as coming from the profits of the business and, in short, keep the transaction between ourselves absolutely quiet. If you'll inquire of Mr. Kellogg he'll tell you I can be trusted to keep my word. Furthermore"-he galloped, suspecting that his time was perflously short and desiring to get it all out of his system

a year and that you shan't be annoyed this way a second time." Bohun looked him over from head to

foot, bowed in silence and, turningboth had stood throughout this passage-grasped a bell rope by the chim-. ney and pulled it violently.

In the desolate fastnesses of that dreary house somewhere a bell tinkled discordantly. A moment later the white headed darky butler opened the

"Suh?" he said. Colonel Bohun essayed to speak, cleared his throat angrily and indi-



cated Dunean with a courteous ges-

"Scipio." said be, "this gentleman will have a glass of wine with me." "Yassuh," stammered the negro.

Bohun turned to his guest. "Won't you be seated, Mr. Duncan?" he said. "You have interested me considerably, rir, and I should be glad to discuss the matter with you."

Speechless, Duncan gasped incoherently and moved toward a chair as the servant reappeared with a tray on which was a decanter of sherry and two old fashioned, thin stemmed crystal glasses. He placed this on the Hbrary table, filled the glasses and at | can?" demanded Tracey desperately.

a sign from Bohun retired. "Sir," said the colonel, indicating the

many a year."

CHAPTER XVII. ROBABLY nothing ever gave must be in love with Angie." rise to more comment in Rad-

boarding school near Philadelphia. Hardly any one knew anything about it-in fact, the rumor of it was just being noised about and contemptuously discredited on all hands-when Tracey galloped down Main street Monday morning with the news that she had left on the carly train.

Radville was at first stupefied, then clamorous, but there was little infor-

Duncan himself refused to be interviewed. He told everybody who had the impudence to mention the matter to him that it was Mr. Graham's affair. Mr. Graham was a substantial business man, he said, and if he chose to send his daughter away to school he had a perfect right to do so.



A PARTY GOWN FOR STATE OCCASIONS.

it, and I'm going to see that she gets it fashionable center like Philadelphia made her change her mind, and arrangements were made by which Josie was able to go Betty one better. A "Not quite, sir." said Duncan. "Good | young ladies' seminary in New York city itself received Josie. She left us bereaved about a week after Betty vanished from our ken, but promised ought to be sent to a good boarding to be back for the Christmas holidays.

Betty was happy, she protested in every communication, and wholly content. She was getting along. The other girls liked her, and she liked them, these statements being made in the order of their relative importance. you be so kind as to inform me why Lots of them, of course, were frightfully swell (Betty annexed "frightfully" at school, by the bye) and had all sorts of clothes. The drug store, not to be outdone, supplied her with a party

Josie kept her promise and came home for Christmas. She was reticent as to her impressions of the New York seminary, but seemed extremely glad to be home, notwithstanding the fact that Nat had apparently contracted no disturbing alliances with the other belles of our village. And Roland remained true-a reliable second string to Josie's bow. Roland was working "I'll guarantee you repayment within | hard at the bank, with an application that earned Blinky Lockwood's regard and outspoken approbation, and his Christmas raiment proved the sensa-

> In passing I should mention that Betty didn't come home once throughout the entire school term. The Christmas and Easter holidays she spent with a girl friend at her Philadelphia

tion of the season.

Meanwhile life in our town simmered gently. Duncan continued to make progress. For one thing I recall that he put in hot soda with whipped cream, which helped a lot to hold the trade regained in the summer from Sothern & Lee.

Occasionally Duncan visited some of the towns in the county to develop the mail order business which he had successfully inaugurated and which increased materially the profits of the

There was a certain night along toward the 1st of January when trade was dull, as it always is after Christmas, and there was nobody in the store save Nat and Tracey. Each had their task, whatever it may have been, and each was busied with it, but of the two Tracey seemed the more restless.

Puncan broke a long silence in the store. "What's the trouble, Tracey?" Tracey pulled up with a stare of confusion. "I-I dunno, Mr. Duncan; I was thinkin', 1 guess."

"Anything gone wrong?" "Not yet."

"Somebody been demonstrating that four doll's stuffed with sawdust, Tra-

"No-o; but. say, Mr. Duncan"- Tracey's confusion became terrific. "Say on, Mr. Tanner."

Tracey struggled perceptibly. The words when they came were blurted, "Ah, I was only thinkin' 'bout Angie." "Do you ever think about anything

"No," Tracey admitted honestly, "not much. But I was wonderin' "-

"Are you stuck on Angie, Mr. Dun-"Great snakes! I hope not!"

The boy sighed. "Thank you, Mr. tray, "to you. I hold it a privilege, sir. Duncan. I was only worryin' because to drink to the only gentleman of spirit | you and Angie is singin' together in it's been my good fortune to meet this the choir now Josie Lockwood's gone to school an'-an' Angie's the purtiest By way of an aside, it should be girl in town-an' I was 'fraid 't you mentioned that this was the first and might like her best when Josie's away. Tracey continued, disconsolate, "It only drink Duncan took while he lived An' I wanted to ask you to pick out ain't no use, really. She's so purty an' s'mother girl."

Duncan chuckled silently. "Tracey," not like the Lockwoods, but rich all he said presently, "it strikes me you the samee-an' I'm only the son of the

The boy gulped. "I-I am." "And I think she's rather partial to ville than Betty Graham's departure to spend the winter at | you."

vation to be got out of old Sam.

One direct result of it all was to hasten Josie's own leave taking. It would never do to let the Grahams eclipse the Lockwoods, you see. Josie had been talking of going to a school in Maryland, but Betty's move to a

> Lots of sales begin big and peter out as the days go by. This one has made itself conspicuous because it has grown by jumps and bounds as it progresses. Each day surpasses its predecessor in sales strength and there must be some reason for it which does not require a pencil and paper to figure. If this sale was not "delivering the goods," and delivering them in satisfactory shape, the people would have discovered it at the beginning and we could not truthfully tell you that tomorrow will positively be the biggest day yet.





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"Do you, really, Mr. Duncan?" "I do. Do you want to marry her?" "Gee! I can't hardly wait! Only," swell an' old man Tuthill's so rich-

livery stable man an' fat an'-all thatan' "-(To be continued.)